

described for the species by S. H. Scudder as far back as 1889. A total of perhaps 20 minutes sunshine allowed me to take a small series of these fascinating butterflies before the weather finally closed in again.

In typically friendly American fashion, a waitress at the hotel had taken an interest in my butterfly hunt and on my return that evening she enquired about my search on Mount Washington. She found it hard to conceal her disappointment when I brought out the collecting boxes containing the dullwinged but subtly mottled butterflies. I fear she expected an insect of shining splendour from the highest mountain in the eastern U.S.A.

### References

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A LOCAL AND UNUSUAL FORM OF *LOPHOPTERYX CAPUCINA* L.: COXCOMBE PROMINENT. — At Grantown-on Spey, Moray, on July 9th 1984 a number of this species were attracted to m.v. light; they were mainly well marked and of a rich mahogany hue, but one was a pale yellowish brown with only faint markings, and was far paler than any *capucina* I had previously encountered. This specimen was later identified as form *pallida* Gillmer, of which eight specimens reside in the National Collection. Of considerable interest is that all these specimens were from the Highlands of Scotland — Aberdeenshire (3), Perthshire (2), Sutherland (2) and Moray — taken between 1893 and 1938. South was evidently aware of this form, for in *Moths of the British Isles*, (1939) he describes Scottish specimens as 'varying in colour from dusky brown, through reddish to pale yellowish brown.'

The most significant aspects of this pale form are its apparent restricted distribution and that it is in complete contrast with the normal tendency towards melanism in this region, as exemplified by such species as *Phragmatobia fuliginosa* L., *Spilosoma menthastri* Esp. and *Plemyria bicolorata* Hufn. On the other hand this pale form of *capucina* is perhaps paralleled by the pale Highland form of *Drepana falcataria* L. *L. capucina* form *pallida* would seem to be quite rare in the Highlands of Scotland, the region to which it is apparently restricted in Britain. — B. K. WEST, 36 Briar Road, Bexley, Kent.